



The Sustainable Pioneer

http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/

January/February 2004

Features:

•CESC offers Sustainability Workshops

•Quick Tip 1

•Q & A Forum

•Sustainable Watch

2

[Click on Headlines to Navigate](#)

CESC offers Sustainability Workshops

The Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC) is presenting a series of workshops regarding sustainability at home. In cooperation with CESC, Sustainable NREL is having a lottery drawing for 10 free passes to one of three evening workshops (or \$10 off a pass for three other workshops). A list of workshops being offered is attached below. If you are interested in entering this drawing, simply e-mail Suzanne Huffnagle at susan_huffnagle@nrel.gov by COB January 28. Winners will be notified by e-mail on Friday, January 30.

The Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC) which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded by the managing partners of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, specializes in energy education. CESC's mission is to help people make smart energy choices. Its programs educate home energy users and students from fourth grade through graduate school. CESC's funding comes from a wide variety of sources, including individual donations and memberships. For more information about CESC, visit their Web site at www.energyscience.org



Workshop Schedule



Quick Tip:

With the increase in the price of natural gas, comes an increase in the need for conservation. To save energy and money, try closing doors and/or vents to rooms that you don't use. However, to avoid damage to your central heating system, close off no more than one-fourth of the area of your home.

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Click on
Headlines to
Navigate

Q & A Forum

Bicycles should be allowed in west gate, not just walkway

Q: I have an idea for something that could make a big difference for folks like me who bicycle commute. Often, it is much easier to come in through the west gate. As I understand it, NREL has an agreement with the surrounding community that NREL employees will be discouraged from using the west gate so that their neighborhoods are not inundated with traffic each day. However, bicycles do not cause much of a traffic problem since they are safe for pedestrians, essentially noiseless, don't take up much space, and are pollution-free. If NREL employees who commute by bicycle could use their badges to open the west gate, it would make coming in that direction much easier, particularly when the gravel area becomes wet and muddy. I suggest that west-gate access would only be given upon agreement to NEVER use the gate in a car (a signed agreement would seem acceptable). I think that this is an easy, free, and sensible way for NREL to make alternative transportation easier for its employees.

A: From the Security perspective, this is a very vulnerable area and it doesn't make sense to open a gate large enough for two trucks to admit a bicycle or pedestrian. Also from a practical standpoint, it takes more time to wait while the big gate opens and closes than it does to negotiate the smaller path - by bicycle or on foot - that leads from the pedestrian gate. And, while you do make a strong "sustainability" argument, there actually is additional energy consumed every time the gate motor is engaged. Currently, all personnel at NREL have access to the walk-through gate. We feel this supports Sustainable NREL and provides adequate access to all who wish to walk or ride bicycles from the west. This concern might be better addressed with improvements to the walkway leading from the gate. We agree it is often muddy when wet, and maintenance personnel should give it some extra consideration when clearing snow. Sustainable NREL will send a request to Facilities on both accounts.



Sustainable Watch

Colorado Sustainability Project, Inc. has included on their site, companies that accept those hard-to-recycle items that we all have around the house. The list includes everything from eyeglasses to cell phones. To access this list, go to

http://www.sustainablecolorado.org/Sustainable_Businesses/Recycling/recycling.html

The Colorado Sustainability Project provides information to companies and individuals who want to create a more sustainable environment for Colorado. This site includes a calendar of events throughout the state, links to other resources on sustainability, and publications regarding environmental issues. You can explore their website at

<http://www.sustainablecolorado.org/index.html>



Don't let your old cell phone go to the dogs... recycle it!

For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/

10 NREL Staff Will Receive:

Free Registration at any of the following Energy Workshops

How to Cut Your Home Energy Costs

Feb 10, 6PM to 7:30

Energy efficiency not only reduces your home energy costs, but it helps the environment and it can make your home more comfortable and more healthy. This workshop is designed to help you get the most out of your energy efficiency efforts. An expert home energy analyst provides a step-by-step guide to identifying and implementing efficiency measures. Learn about the most important measures, energy audits, costs and benefits and the safety and comfort issues. (CESC also offers this workshop in Littleton.)

Energy Features to Look for in a New Home

Feb. 11, 2004, 6PM to 7:30

Having a home built is an opportunity to build in efficiency, comfort, safety, durability and environmental responsibility--if you know what to look for. Steve Andrews, an expert in home energy systems analysis and design, shares information about common problems and best-practice solutions for new home energy systems -- or for an existing home energy efficiency retrofit.

Renewable Energy Atlas of Colorado

Feb. 18, 2004, 6PM to 7:30

Susan Innis of Western Resource Advocates will present the Colorado section of the organization's recent report *Renewable Energy Atlas of the West*. This beautifully done publication shows the location of Colorado's huge renewable energy resource.

Or \$10 off the Registration for NREL Staff at any of the following Energy Workshops

Installing a Solar Electric System

Feb. 12, 2004, 6PM to 7:30

CESC and CRC again cosponsor, this time to help homeowners plan the installation of a solar electric system. Off-grid and on-grid systems, types of photovoltaic cells and selling electricity back to the utility will all be discussed. Two well-known local experts instruct.
Normal price \$15/person (CESC members free)

Solar Energy and Energy Star ® for Existing Homes

Feb 21, 2004, 9AM to 4PM

This all day workshop has just been scheduled (as of 1/12/04). Two tracks of sessions all morning long. One track will include sessions that address the Energy Star approach to tightening and insulating the building envelope in ways to reduce drafts, increase comfort and cut energy costs. The other track will focus more on solar, passive, thermal systems and photovoltaic systems. Two site visits will take place in the afternoon. A small group of exhibitors will have information. Lunch and information packets provided.
Normal price \$25/person

An Energy Efficiency/Green Building Renovation

Feb.26, March 4, 2004, 6PM to 7:30

Leslie Baer and Matt Arnold are determined to live "green" in the city. They started their project with an energy audit, then added insulation, a radiant heating system, windows and green building features. This two session series includes a site visit to see the nearly finished project.
Normal price \$20/person (CESC members free)

BACK

For More Information: see www.energyscience.org, or call 303-216-2036